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Born-Again Brezhnev?—According to Karl Marx, religion is the opiate of the people. But the pragmatic athiests in the Kremlin don't boggle at the use of religion to serve their purposes when all else fails. According to intelligence sources, the Soviet bosses are believed to have employed an itinerant Syrian faith healer to work whatever magic he can on aging, ailing party secretary Leonid Brezhnev.

EXCERPTED